December 2, 2019

Loyola University New Orleans joins in solidarity all of the Jesuit and Ignatians associations, our Jesuit brothers, colleagues in Latin America, and the people of Nicaragua, to express our earnest concerns with the problems with democracy and human rights of Nicaragua.

For over a year and a half, the Nicaraguan government has been using security force action to disrespect constitutionally granted civil rights of peaceful protest. On November 19, government-controlled groups violently attempted to enter the Jesuit University of Central America (UCA) in Managua, Nicaragua in response to student protest. We reject and condemn this violent attempt by the government.

We declare our solidarity with the Nicaraguan mothers that are on a hunger strike waiting for the release of their incarcerated children. We also stand in solidarity with and pray for those who were arrested for bringing water to those on strike. We condemn the aggression towards not only these Nicaraguan mothers but a number of different parishes.

We ask that the Nicaraguan government and the people performing these vicious acts to immediately stop this behavior and restore order, democracy, and civil liberties. “It is too much pain that the Nicaraguans have suffered; the families that are being mistreated carry a double suffering: the lack of liberty of their family members who are imprisoned and now a state of siege that puts their own lives at risk” (Communication from the Episcopal Conference). Because of this, we reject any more armed intervention.

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the families that have lost their lives, liberty, or loved ones as a result of this conflict. We pray for just and a peaceful solution to this violence, and until then for anyone and everyone affected by this conflict.